

I will continue to report periodically to the Congress on significant developments, pursuant to 50 U.S.C. 1703(c).

William J. Clinton

The White House,
March 25, 1996.

NOTE: This message was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on March 27.

Statement on Signing the Land Disposal Program Flexibility Act of 1996

March 26, 1996

Today I am pleased to sign into law H.R. 2036, the "Land Disposal Program Flexibility Act of 1996," which brings needed reforms to the Solid Waste Disposal Act (SWDA).

This Act would eliminate a statutory mandate that requires the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to promulgate stringent and costly treatment requirements for certain low-risk wastes that already are regulated under the Clean Water Act or Safe Drinking Water Act. The EPA considers these wastes to present little or no risk, due to existing regulation under State and Federal law.

The Act requires EPA to conduct a study to determine whether, following elimination of this mandate, there will be any risks that might not be addressed by State or other Federal laws. It also preserves EPA's authority to impose any additional controls that are needed to protect public health and the environment. In addition, H.R. 2036 reforms certain municipal landfill ground water monitoring requirements under current law, thereby easing burdens on local governments.

The Administration's support for H.R. 2036 originated in its initiative for Reinventing Environmental Regulation, as announced on March 16, 1995. As part of that initiative, I made a commitment to support common-sense reforms to the SWDA—if those reforms could be developed through a bipartisan process. This Act addresses one of the most important issues that the Administration identified in our initiative. Once implemented by EPA, it will eliminate an unnecessary and duplicative layer of costly regulation,

yielding tens of millions of dollars in savings to private industry.

William J. Clinton

The White House,
March 26, 1996.

NOTE: H.R. 2036, approved March 26, was assigned Public Law No. 104-119. This statement was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on March 27.

Remarks to the National Governors' Association Education Summit in Palisades, New York

March 27, 1996

Thank you very much, Governor Miller, Governor Thompson; Lou Gerstner. Thank you for hosting this terribly important event. To all of the Governors and distinguished guests, education leaders, and business leaders who are here, let me say that I am also delighted to be here with the Secretary of Education, Governor Dick Riley. I believe that he and Governor Hunt and Governor Branstad and I were actually there when the "Nation At Risk" report was issued, as well as when the education summit was held by President Bush. I want to thank Secretary Riley for the work that he has done with the States and with educators all across the country. And I know that every one of you has worked with him, but I'm glad to have him here, and he's been a wonderful partner for me and I think for you.

This is an extraordinary meeting of America's business leaders and America's Governors. I know some have raised some questions about it, but let me just say on the front end I think it is a very appropriate and a good thing to do, and I applaud those who organized it and those who have attended.

The Governors, after all, have primary, indeed constitutional responsibility for the conditions of our public schools. And the business leaders know well, perhaps better than any other single group in America, what the consequences of our failing to get the most out of our students and achieve real educational excellence will be for our Nation.

So I am very pleased to see you here doing this, and I want to thank each and every one